

CIACO

NID 81 [REDACTED]

November 18, 1981

POLAND: Talks Begin

*The conciliatory statements made yesterday by Solidarity and government negotiators at the opening of their talks did little to hide their intention to conduct hard bargaining over the many sensitive issues.* [REDACTED]

The initial talks produced agreement on four working teams to take up the substantive issues beginning tomorrow. A senior Solidarity representative told [REDACTED] that the union has developed a bargaining strategy that it hopes will allow the union to get as many concessions as it gives. [REDACTED]

The union particularly wants permission to print a daily newspaper. The regime could grant such a concession more easily than it could agree to allow greater access to radio and television programming. [REDACTED]

Solidarity also will push for the establishment of a social-economic council, free elections to local government bodies, and worker compensation for price increases. In return, the union is prepared to agree to the government's proposed restructuring of Poland's consumer price structure. [REDACTED]

As the talks begin, strike activity continues to recede. The government made a conciliatory gesture to the 150,000 students who are currently conducting protest demonstrations. The Council of Ministers indicated on Monday that it is willing to take into account views of the academic community in revising a draft law on higher education that will soon be presented to parliament. The gesture may prompt protest organizers to consider cancellation of a nationwide student strike set for next week. [REDACTED]

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